AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) In a system for enhanced business analysis and management capable of predictive organizational performance, a combination comprising:

first means defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships, said first means including a second means for obtaining input data from participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and/or relationships within the organization; and

~~second~~ third means for quantifying the agreement among various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships,

whereby benchmarks are established for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization.

2.   (Currently amended) In a business method for enhanced business analysis and management capable of predictive organizational performance, the steps comprising:

obtaining the inputs of participants in an organization regarding their perception of the significance of their interaction with others on particular issues and relationships within the organization;

defining the status of complex system/organization components in terms of issues and relationships; and

quantifying the agreement among <u>said</u> various system/organizational components relative to selected systems/organizational tool characteristics <u>reflecting the interactive perspective of individuals relative to each other on said issues and relationships,</u>

whereby benchmarks are established for orienting and/or monitoring system/organization change and improvement <u>for measuring, predicting and enhancing various aspects of the organization.</u>

3.   (Currently amended) A combination~~/method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims~~ <u>claim</u> 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristics include:

<u>a</u> ~~the~~ metric <u>for</u> "CLARITY".

4.   (Currently amended) A combination~~/method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims~~ <u>claim</u> 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristics include:

<u>a</u> ~~the~~ metric <u>for</u> "INVOLVEMENT".

5.   (Currently amended) A combination~~/method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims~~ <u>claim</u> 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristics include:

<u>a</u> ~~the~~ metric <u>for</u> "LEVERAGE".

6.   (Currently amended) A combination~~/method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims~~ <u>claim</u> 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristics include:

a ~~the~~ metric <u>for</u> "PRIORITY".

7.   (Currently amended) A combination~~/method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims~~ <u>claim</u> 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristics include:

a ~~the~~ metric <u>for</u> "RELATIVE PRIORITY".

8.   (Currently amended) A combination~~/method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims~~ <u>claim</u> 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristics include:

a ~~the~~ metric <u>for</u> "INTEGRATION".

9.   (Currently amended) A combination~~/method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims~~ <u>claim</u> 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristic includes <u>a</u> ~~the~~ metric <u>for</u> "CLARITY" which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Clarity = \frac{Links(confirmed)}{Link(confirmed) + Links(unconfirmed)}$$

the range of clarity is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 represents a total lack of clarity and 1 represents perfect agreement (within the preset agreement criteria).

10.   (Currently amended) A combination~~/method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims~~ <u>claim</u> 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristic includes <u>a</u> ~~the~~ metric <u>for</u> "INVOLVEMENT" which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Involvement = \frac{L}{N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: L = confirmed links with Importance ≥ 3

N = total population ($[2^{N-1}-1]$ represents the maximum number of

links in a population of size N)

the range of involvement is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 = no important interactions with others and 1 = full involvement.

      11.   (Currently amended) A combination/method as set forth in either claims claim 1 or 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes a the metric for "LEVERAGE" which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Leverage = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{5N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: L^a = number of confirmed links with Importance = a

    N = total population ($[2^{N-1}$-1] represents the maximum number of

        links in a population of size N)

the range of leverage is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 = no leverage and 1 = maximum leverage.

    12.   (Currently amended) A combination/method as set forth in either claims claim 1 or 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes a the metric for "PRIORITY" which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Priority = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{10N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: L_a = number of half-links with Impact = a

    N = total population ($[2^{N-1}$-1] represents the maximum number of

        links in a population of size N)

the range of priority values is $0 \leq 1$.

13. (Currently amended) A combination/~~method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims~~ <u>claim</u> 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristic includes <u>a</u> ~~the~~ metric <u>for</u> "RELATIVE PRIORITY" which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Re\mathit{lative}\,Pr\mathit{iority} = \frac{P_n}{\sum\limits_i P_i}$$

where: Pn = Priority value of issue n

i = issue number.

14. (Currently amended) A combination/~~method~~ as set forth in ~~either claims~~ <u>claim</u> 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said tool characteristic includes <u>a</u> ~~the~~ metric <u>for</u> "INTEGRATION" which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Intergration = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{5N_1 N_2}$$

where: L_a = number of confirmed links between unit 1 and unit 2 with

Importance = a

N_1, N_2 = total number of links in unit 1 and unit 2

the range of integration is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 = no connection between units and 1 = full integration.

15. (Withdrawn) Each and every novel feature and/or combination of novel features herein disclosed.

16. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristics include:

a metric for "CLARITY".

17. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristics include:

a metric for "INVOLVEMENT".

18. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristics include:

a metric for "LEVERAGE".

19. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristics include:

a metric for "PRIORITY".

20. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristics include:

a metric for "RELATIVE PRIORITY".

21. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristics include:

a metric for "INTEGRATION".

22. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric for "CLARITY" which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Clarity = \frac{Links(confirmed)}{Link(confirmed) + Links(unconfirmed)}$$

the range of clarity is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 represents a total lack of clarity and 1 represents perfect agreement (within the preset agreement criteria).

23. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric for "INVOLVEMENT" which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Involvement = \frac{L}{N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: L = confirmed links with Importance ≥ 3

N = total population ([2^{N-1}-1] represents the maximum number of

links in a population of size N)

the range of involvement is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 = no important interactions with others and 1 = full involvement.

24.   (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric for "LEVERAGE" which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Leverage = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{5N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: L^a = number of confirmed links with Importance = a

N = total population ([2^{N-1}-1] represents the maximum number of

links in a population of size N)

the range of leverage is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 = no leverage and 1 = maximum leverage.

25.   (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric for "PRIORITY" which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Pr\,iority = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{10N(2^{N-1} - 1)}$$

where: L_a = number of half-links with Impact = a

N = total population ([2^{N-1}-1] represents the maximum number of

links in a population of size N)

the range of priority values is $0 \leq 1$.

26.   (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric for "RELATIVE PRIORITY" which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Relative\ Priority = \frac{P_n}{\sum_i P_i}$$

where: Pn = Priority value of issue n

i = issue number.

27.   (New) A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said tool characteristic includes a metric for "INTEGRATION" which is determined by the criteria analysis:

$$Intergration = \frac{L_1 + 2L_2 + 3L_3 + 4L_4 + 5L_5}{5N_1N_2}$$

where: L_a = number of confirmed links between unit 1 and unit 2 with

Importance = a

N_1, N_2 = total number of links in unit 1 and unit 2

the range of integration is $0 \leq 1$, where 0 = no connection between units and 1 = full integration.